

THOMAS P. O'NEILL, JR.
MASSACHUSETTS

DEMOCRAT
MAJORITY LEADER

HR 14592
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 17,

Dear Colleague,

When the House considers the Military Procurement Authorization Act, HR 14592, next week I intend to offer an amendment to reduce the land-based U.S. military personnel stationed on foreign soil by 100,000 by December 31, 1975, an 18 month period. The Secretary of Defense would determine the areas from which the reduction would be made.

STAT

According to the Department of Defense figures of December 31, 1973 there were 523,000 troops stationed outside of the United States. Of these 523,000 492,000 are stationed on foreign soil and 31,000 are in U.S. Territories and Possessions. Of the 492,000 in foreign countries 57,000 are "afloat" leaving a base figure of 435,000 land based troops stationed on foreign soil. My amendment affects only these 435,000 troops, it does not affect the personnel afloat or the personnel stationed in U.S. Territories and Possessions.

As I said last year the economy of the U.S. can no longer finance troops all over the globe to police and babysit the world. It is estimated that it costs the U.S. Taxpayer in excess of \$30 billion annually to maintain bases, troops and facilities abroad. Thus I hope you can see fit to support my amendment to reduce land-based troops stationed in foreign countries by 100,000. The text of my amendment is as follows:

on page 5: after line 2 add the following proviso:

provided, that no funds appropriated by Congress may be used after December 31, 1975, for the purpose of maintaining more than 335,000 military personnel permanently or temporarily assigned at land bases outside the U.S. and its possessions: provided further, that the Secretary of Defense shall determine the appropriate world-wide overseas areas from which this phased reduction of 100,000 military personnel will be made.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.

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